

#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 2 1 2013

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Luke Messer United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund program will be proposing to add the Garden City Ground Water Plume site, located in Garden City, Indiana, to the National Priorities List (NPL) by rulemaking. The EPA received a governor/state concurrence letter supporting the listing of this site on the NPL. Listing on the NPL provides access to federal cleanup funding for the nation's highest priority contaminated sites.

Because the site is located within your Congressional District, I am providing information to help in answering questions you may receive from your constituency. The information includes a brief description of the site, and a general description of the NPL listing process.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Pamela Janifer, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-6969. We expect the rule to be published in the <u>Federal Register</u> in the next several days.

Sincerely,

Mathy Stanislaus

Assistant Administrator

**Enclosures** 

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE REFERRAL

June 18, 2013

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL	PROTECTION AGENCY
ACTION COMMENTS:	
ACTION REQUESTED:	DIRECT REPLY W/COPY
REFERRAL COMMENTS	
DESCRIPTION OF INCO	MING:
ID:	1115357
MEDIA:	EMAIL
DOCUMENT DATE:	June 13, 2013
TO:	PRESIDENT OBAMA
FROM:	THE HONORABLE DAN COATS UNITED STATES SENATE WASHINGTON, DC 20510
SUBJECT:	EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT EPA PLANS TO ISSUE GREENHOUSE GAS NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW FOSSIL FUEL-BASED ELECTRIC GENERATING SOURCES
COMMENTS:	

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT (202) 456-2590.

RETURN ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT, ROOM 63, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

# THE WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING WORKSHEET



**DATE RECEIVED:** 

**CASE ID: 1115357** 

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DAN COATS

SUBJECT:

EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT EPA PLANS TO ISSUE GREENHOUSE GAS NEW SOURCE

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PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR NEW FOSSIL FUEL-BASED ELECTRIC GENERATING

**SOURCES** 

		(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE			CODE		TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	DATE COMPLETED
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS		MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ	ORG	06/18/2013			
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTE	ECTION AGENCY		R	06/18/2013			
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**COMMENTS: 8 ADDL SIGNEES** 

**MEDIA TYPE: EMAIL** 

**USER CODE:** 

Scanned by ORM

ACTION CODES		DISPOSITION	
A = APPROPRIATE ACTION	TYPE RESPONSE	DISPOSITION CODES	COMPLETED DATE
B = RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D = DRAFT RESPONSE I = INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R = DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY ORG = ORIGINATING OFFICE	INITIALS OF SIGNER (W.H. STAFF) NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED OTBE = OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS	A = ANSWERED OR ACKNOWLEDGED C = CLOSED X = INTERIM REPLY	DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSEOUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES REFER QUESTIONS TO DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT (202)-456-2590 SEND ROUTING UPDATES AND COMPLETED RECORDS TO OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT ROOM 63, EEOB.

### Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 13, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama The President The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

#### Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our continued concern about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) plans to issue greenhouse gas new source performance standards for new fossil fuel-based electric generating sources. The proposed performance standards would require new coal-fired power plants to meet the same requirements as new gas-fired power plants — an unprecedented standard under the Clean Air Act. This blanket standard will discourage the upgrade of existing sources and effectively prevent the construction of new coal-fired plants. This could prevent the intended goal of the rule while simultaneously doing much to harm our economy and threaten the reliability of our electricity supply.

This proposed rule unnecessarily discriminates against coal as part of our country's energy portfolio and will dramatically increase the cost of electricity from coal-fired plants. This is the same electricity that Hoosiers have found more reliable and affordable than most of the country and that job creators consider a critical part of our state's attractive business environment. Families and businesses cannot afford increased energy costs as our nation's economy continues to struggle. And our nation cannot afford to implement policies that effectively mandate the use of more expensive or less reliable fuels for electricity generation, leaving us behind nations such as China and India who are taking advantage of low-cost coal to meet their energy needs.

Additionally, Indiana is annually among the top ten coal producing states in the nation averaging 32,000,000 to 35,000,000 tons each year. Not only is coal a vital energy source for all Hoosiers, but the mining industry supports more than 2,500 Hoosier jobs and contributes more than \$750 million to our economy. The reserve base for the entire Illinois Basin, which includes Indiana coal, is over 130 billion tons or 25 percent of total demonstrated coal reserves in the United States – and is enough to meet entire U.S. coal demands for over 100 years.

Our nation can continue to utilize coal while lowering emissions. New technologies for coal-based power generation are laying the foundation for advancements in power plant efficiency, bringing us closer to a future where near-zero emissions from coal are a reality. These technologies allow us to modernize our existing coal fleet, improve efficiency, and produce low-cost power for customers. However, as proposed, the EPA rule will effectively prohibit the

construction of new plants and eliminate an opportunity to provide economic stimulus to our nation's manufacturing and construction sectors.

We respectfully request you to reject the current proposal and instead urge the EPA to amend the proposed rule to exercise the option available to the agency for differentiating standards based on fuel type and subcategories and not discriminate against coal as a source for generation. Such an amendment is essential to create new jobs and strengthen the economy.

Sincerely,

Senator Dan Coats

Rep. Larry Bucshon

Kep. Susan Brooks

Ren. Todd Rok

Ren. Marlin Stutzman

Ren Jackie Walorski



### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

#### AUG 2 9 2013

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter of June 13, 2013, co-signed by eight of your colleagues, to President Obama expressing your concerns about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed New Source Performance Standards for emissions of greenhouse gases from new fossil fuel-fired power plants. I have been asked to respond on the President's behalf.

The EPA received over 2 million comments on the proposed rule, many of which addressed issues related to technical achievability and to cost. In fact, numerous comments received by the agency addressed the issue of whether new coal-fired power plants should be required to meet the same standard as that set for new gas-fired plants. These comments, along with information about changes in the electricity sector, were carefully considered. Accordingly, as reflected in President Obama's June 25 Memorandum to the Administrator of the EPA, the agency decided to issue a new proposal and has been working to develop that proposal in light of the comments and information.

The Memorandum directs the EPA to issue its new proposal by no later than September 20, 2013, and to "issue a final rule in a timely fashion after considering all public comments, as appropriate." The President has also made clear that a diverse energy supply is needed, and as a Hoosier myself, I understand the importance of this to the people of Indiana. You have my assurance that any final rule that the EPA issues will reflect the agency's best analysis of the issues raised in your letter and of overall cost and achievability.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

Acting Assistant Administrator

JA B. P.CL

July 28, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington D.C., 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We are concerned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed new ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) before completing implementation of the existing ozone standards. Between 1980 and 2013, U.S. Gross Domestic Product, population, and energy consumption grew substantially, while air emissions dropped significantly. Moving forward, EPA projects air quality will continue to substantially improve over the next ten years through various federal controls including state and industry efforts to implement the current 2008 ozone standard. EPA can support economic growth while continuing the decades-long trend towards cleaner air by maintaining the existing 75 ppb ozone standard and allowing time for our constituents to fully implement current clean air requirements.

EPA data indicates that the air is cleaner today than it has been in thirty years, progress due in large part to control measures associated with past NAAQS standards. This success shows that ozone NAAQS when given an opportunity to be fully implemented produce significant reductions. Companies seeking to build or expand facilities invest significantly in control processes. If a proposed standard cannot be met, nonattainment areas would be required to implement costly ozone-reduction measures and permitting requirements that could prove technologically difficult. Moreover, EPA acknowledges that there are alternative views on health effects evidence and risk information. Due to all these uncertainties, allowing the current standard to take full effect would alleviate any perceived concerns with measured scientific data and allow EPA time to further consider those uncertainties while still protecting air quality.

EPA's ozone rules affect all aspects of our communities and municipalities, including consumers and vital industries. EPA openly acknowledges that to meet national air quality standards a partnership is required between the federal government, states, localities and industry. Yet, the timing of EPA's proposal could strain state and local government resources. EPA delayed implementing the current 2008 standard for two years while it decided whether to reconsider that standard. EPA is just now providing states with guidance to implement the 2008 standard, and the state-federal clean air partnership should be allowed an opportunity to work.

Indeed, states are currently investing substantial administrative resources to make up lost time. It could prove burdensome to force states to implement a new ozone standard at the same time they are only starting to implement the current one. We believe allowing sufficient time for existing measures to take hold, before setting a new ozone standard, would yield the desired results EPA is currently seeking.

While we recognize that EPA is under court order to complete its review of the ozone NAAQS, EPA has requested comment on maintaining the existing standard. We believe the full implementation of a standard of 75 ppb is in line with EPA goals and the ideals set forth under the Clean Air Act and, could possibly, by the next five year review, achieve lower emissions standards than originally sought. It is clear from the past that ozone standards can only achieve the desired results if they are allowed time to be fully implemented. EPA should keep in mind the newly laid out requirements in the delayed 2008 ozone NAAQS when considering whether to finalize a new, potentially stricter, standard. Therefore, we request EPA allow time for the benefits of the current ozone standard to become effective by retaining the current ozone standard.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Latta Member of Congress

Gene Green Member of Congress

Jun grafis

Mike Kelly

Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick

Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine

Member of Congress

Pete Olson

Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer

Member of Congress

Kyrtten Sinema

Monber of Congress

Reid Ribble Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas Member of Congress

Garrett Graves
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson Member of Congress

David McKinley
Member of Congress

mil B. MTGE

Henry Cuellar Member of Congress Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse Member of Congress

Steve Chabot

Member of Congress

Jim Renagci

The Honorable Gina McCarthy July 28, 2015

Page 4

Ralph Abraham Member of Congress

Gary Palmy Member of Congress

Thomas Massie

Thomas Massie Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Member of Congress

Earl "Buddy" Carter Member of Congress

Pete Sessions Member of Congress

Bill Flores Member of Congress Suve to ght Member of Congress

> Mike Bost Member of Congress

> Bary Loudermilk Member of Congress

Gregg Parper

Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Sanford Bishop

Member of Congress

Scott Perry

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

Member of Congress

David Joyce

Member of Congress

BI SIL

Bob Gibbs Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Member of Congress

John Moolenaar Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

John Heming, MD Member of Congress

Brian Babin

Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren

Member of Congress

Andy Barr

Member of Congress

Al Green

Member of Congress

Lynd Jenkins

Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher

Ann Wagner Member of Congress

Billy Long Member of Congress

Brad Ashford Member of Congress

Ken Buck Member of Congress

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Evan Jenkins
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers Member of Congress Steve Falia

Steve Scalise Member of Congress

James Sensenbrenner, James Congress

Randy Weber Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

lusti Sus Austin Scott

Member of Congress

Leonard Lance Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer Member of Congress

MoDrock Mo Brooks

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Collin Peterson Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling Member of Congless

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Adrian Smith Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield Member of Congress

Mike D. Rogers Member of Congress

Patrick Tiberi Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Joe Barton Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon Member of Congress

Michael McCaul Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup Member of Congress

David Schweikert / Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

John S. Jakus M. mber of Congress

Diane Black Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

Jern Dewell

Terri Sewell Member of Congress

Chris Collins Member of Congress

Michael Doyle Member of Congress Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Tom Marino — Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus

Member of Congress

Ted S. Yono, D.V.M. Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

John Culberson Member of Congress Filemon Vela Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Doug Lamborn Member of Congress Phil Roe, M.D. Member of Congress Marcha Blackburn

Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski Member of Congress Michael Simpson Member of Congress Andy Harris Member of Congress Randy Forbes Member of Congress Steve King Member of Congress Vicky Hartzler Member of Congress

Ryan Zinke

Will Hard

Will Hurd Member of Congress

Kevin Brady Member of Congress

Lou Barletta

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Blane Luetkemeyer Member of Congress

Rick Allen Member of Congress

Joseph R. Pitts Member of Congress

Jef ham Manufac of Congress Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Charles W. Dent Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp Member of Congress

Steve Pearce Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek, M.D. Member of Congress

Bradley Byrn

Member of Congress

Rod Blum



#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 2 2 2015

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 2015, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) proposed rule. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

As you know, the EPA sets NAAQS to protect public health and the environment from six common pollutants, including ground-level ozone. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to review these standards every five years to ensure that they are sufficiently protective. On November 25, 2014, the EPA proposed to strengthen the NAAQS for ground-level ozone, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects.

As you note we have made great progress in improving air quality and public health in the United States, and it has not come at the expense of our economy. Indeed, over the past 40 years, air pollution has decreased by nearly 70 percent while the economy has tripled. The recently adopted clean air regulations you mention will certainly improve ozone levels across the country, and as a result, we expect more areas to have improved air quality in the future.

I appreciate your comments on the ozone proposal and have asked my staff to place your letter in the docket for the rulemaking.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at <a href="mailto:lewis.josh@epa.gov">lewis.josh@epa.gov</a> or (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

Acting Assistant Administrator

1.4 B. Mill

June 12, 2014

Gina McCarthy Environmental Protection Agency Office of the Administrator #1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

At the end of the 111th Congress, a bill sponsored by Congressmen Henry Waxman and Ed Markey that would have instituted a "cap-and-trade" system to regulate carbon emissions was rejected by the United States Senate.

We believe that the proposed draft regulation that your Agency published on Monday, June 2, 2014, entitled "Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units" seeks to achieve exactly what the United States Senate rejected. More importantly, we believe that the authority to limit carbon emissions, even if that were actually a necessity, rests in neither the Constitution nor the Clean Air Act but in the true free market of individual choices made by the American people. When Americans are free to dream and innovate – not coerced by regulators in Washington who will never have exclusive knowledge of science or the newest technologies – we believe they will always find cheaper, cleaner, safer, and more efficient ways to use and produce energy.

When we try to manage our economy to achieve certain ends, the result is always less innovation and therefore slower economic growth. The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity found that regulations with similar goals will cost 178,000 jobs each year for fifteen years. The Heritage Foundation estimates that the effect of this and other unnecessary regulations will decrease aggregate gross domestic product by more than \$2 trillion through 2038, and the average family will lose \$1,200 in annual income by 2023.

In short, Madame Administrator, we believe this carbon dioxide regulation – whose implementation is legally questionable at best – would do untold harm to the American people and our economy for decades to come.

We demand that you immediately rescind this unwise and unconstitutional regulation. We eagerly await your written response.

Blessings and Liberty,

Jeff Duncan Member of Congress Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

Bill Casaly Bill Cassidy Member of Congress Patrick Tiberi nthia Lummis Viember of Congress Member of Congress Blake Farenthold Member of Congress Member of Congress Machbu Marsha Blackburn Tim Huelskamp Member of Congress Member of Congress Todd Rokita Member of Congress Pete Olson Brett Guthrie Member of Congress Member of Congress

Vance McAllister

Member of Congress

Chris Stewart

Paul Gosar Member of Congress	Doug La Malfa Member of Congress
Luke Messer Member of Congress	Randy Weber Member of Congress
Ted Yoho Member of Congress	Doug Collins Member of Congress
Steve Stivers Member of Congress	Markwayne Mullin Member of Congress
Stephen Fincher Member of Congress	Steve Womack Member of Congress
David Schweikert Member of Congress	Mick Mulvaney Member of Congress
10/5	

Sam Johnson

Member of Congress

Sean Duffy

Star Southerland Member of Congress	Tim Griffin Member of Congress
Trey Gowdy Member of Congress	Alan Nunnelee Member of Congress
Charles Boustany Member of Congress	Mark Meadows Member of Congress
Raul Labrador Member of Congress	Diane Black Member of Congress
Billy Long Member of Congress	Bill Johnson Member of Congress
Howard Coble Member of Congress	John Duntan Member of Longress
Joe Wilson	Spencer/Bachus

Member of Congress

Member of Congress Member of Congress Ralph Hall Steve Chabot Member of Congress Member of Congress Michele Bachmann Member of Congress Member of Congress homas Massie Thomas Massie Member of Congress Member of Congress Paul C. Broun, M.D.

Member of Congress

James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr. Member of Congress

Mike Coffman Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte Member of Congress



#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 1 1 2014

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 2014, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants that was signed by the Administrator on June 2, 2014, and published in the *Federal Register* on June 18, 2014. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

Climate change induced by human activities is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It already threatens human health and welfare and our economic well-being, and if left unchecked, it will have devastating impacts on the United States and the planet. Power plants are the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clean Power Plan aims to cut energy waste and leverage cleaner energy sources by doing two things. First, it uses a national framework to set achievable state-specific goals to cut carbon pollution per megawatt hour of electricity generated. Second, it empowers the states to chart their own paths to meet their goals. The proposal builds on what states, cities and businesses around the country are already doing to reduce carbon pollution, and when fully implemented in 2030, carbon emissions will be reduced by approximately 30 percent from the power sector across the United States when compared with 2005 levels. In addition, we estimate the proposal will cut the pollution that causes smog and soot by 25 percent, avoiding up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks by 2020.

Before issuing this proposal, the EPA heard from more than 300 stakeholder groups from around the country to learn more about what programs are already working to reduce carbon pollution. These meetings, with states, utilities, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, consumer groups, industry, and others, reaffirmed that states are leading the way. The Clean Air Act provides the tools to build on these state actions in ways that will achieve meaningful reductions and recognizes that the way we generate power in this country is diverse, complex and interconnected.

We appreciate your views about the effects of the proposal. As you know, we are currently seeking public comment on the proposal, and we encourage you and all interested parties to provide us with detailed comments on all aspects of the proposed rule. The public comment period will remain open for 120 days, until October 16, 2014. We have submitted your letter to the rulemaking docket, but additional comments can be submitted via any one of these methods:

- Federal eRulemaking portal: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: <u>A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov</u>. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 on the cover page.
- Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 2822 1T, Attention Docket ID No. OAR–2013-0602, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301
  Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the
  Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of
  boxed information.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at lewis.josh@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

Acting Assistant Administrator

JAB. P.CL



#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Honorable Luke Messer United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund program will adding the Garden City Ground Water Plume site, located in Garden City, Indiana, to the National Priorities List (NPL) by rulemaking. The EPA received a governor/state concurrence letter supporting the listing of this site on the NPL. Listing on the NPL provides access to federal cleanup funding for the nation's highest priority contaminated sites.

Because the site is located within your congressional district, I am providing information to help in answering questions you may receive from your constituency. The information includes a brief description of the site, and a general description of the NPL listing process.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Raquel Snyder, in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-9586. We expect the rule to be published in the <u>Federal Register</u> in the next several days.

Sincerely,

Mathy Stanislaus

**Assistant Administrator** 

Enclosures

January 15, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We are writing to request a sixty day extension of the comment period for the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule titled Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (RIN 2060-AQ91).

Given the 2.5 million comments EPA received for the previous version of this rule and the many stakeholders who could be affected, we believe a comment period extension is appropriate.

As you know, the EPA's actions have far-reaching implications, and this proposed rule affects not only coal and natural gas companies but also energy-intensive industries like manufacturing and construction as well as average American families trying to pay their electric bills.

Given that nearly forty percent of electricity in the United States is generated by coal, it is especially important to carefully consider both the short- and long-term ramifications of this proposal. In some states nearly ninety percent of electricity is coal-powered, so consumers could be especially hard-hit. We have already heard an outpouring of concern from constituents alarmed about this proposal's impact on energy affordability, job creation, and long-term economic growth. Allowing stakeholders additional time to comment will ensure those wishing to share their views are able to do so and will enable the EPA to more fully consider public opinion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to develop commonsense policies that protect our precious natural resources while creating jobs, lowering costs, and boosting our economy.

Sincerely,

Jackie Walorski Member of Congress

Walves K.

Michael McCaul Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security

Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Chairman, Committee on Small Business

Hal Rogers

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

Chairman, Committee on Space, Science,

& Technology

Nick Rahall

Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Robert Aderholt Tember of Congress

Joe Barton

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

r Blackbur Marsha Blackburn Member of Congress

Susan Brooks

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Chris Collins

Member of Congress

Paul Broun, M.D. Member of Congress

Shelley Moore Capito

Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer Member of Congress

Rodney Davis Member of Congress

Seen Duffy Member of Congress

John C. Fleming, M.D. Member of Congress

Rul Gosar, D.D.S. Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith Member of Congress

Andy Harris Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp Member of Congress

Mike Kelly Member of Congre Steve Daines

Steve Daines
Member of Congress

OC ~ Des

Charles Dent Member of Congress

William Enyart
Member of Congress

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Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Brest Sather

Brett Guthrie Member of Congress

Vicky Hartylu
Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Member of Congress

Steve King

Jack Kinkston Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Thomas Massie Member of Congress

mil B. Mile

Member of Congress

Luke Messer Member of Congress

Tim Murphy Member of Congress

Rich Nugent Member of Congress

Stevan Pearce Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Robert Latta Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Jim Matheson Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer Member of Congress

Pete Olson Member of Congress



Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Adrian Smith Member of Congress

Chris Stewart Member of Congress

Marlin Sturzman Member of Congress

Ann Wagner Member of Congress

Don Young

Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

David Schweikert Member of Congress

Jason Smith Member of Congress

Steve Stivers Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson Member of Congress

Westmoreland Member of Congress



#### **UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY - 8 2014

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy. In the letter, you and your colleagues request a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the proposed "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units," also known as the Carbon Pollution Standards, which were published in the *Federal Register* on January 8, 2014. The Administrator has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The proposal included a public comment period of 60 days, which would have ended on March 10, 2014. We have now extended the public comment period on the proposed Carbon Pollution Standards for new power plants by an additional 60 days, to May 9, 2014. This will ensure that the public has sufficient time to review and comment on all of the information available, including the proposed rule, the notice of data availability, and other materials in the docket.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Josh Lewis in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at lewis.josh@epa.gov or (202) 564-2095.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

Acting Assistant Administrator

1-8 C. Mach

Luke Messer

Republican Policy Committee Chairman

Committee on Financial Services

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Deputy Whip



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2017

Washington Office:

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The Honorable Scott Pruitt Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Mail Code 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I write to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Region V is overstepping its authority and acting contrary to long-standing EPA policy. Region V has issued a notice of violation to MGPI of Indiana, LLC (MGPI) for constructing and planning to construct a total of ten new whiskey aging warehouses at its distillery in Lawrenceburg. This action will not only cost jobs, but is also legally unjustifiable: Region V failed to provide "fair notice" of the alleged violation because its position is contrary to decades of EPA guidance, which fully supports MGPI's position. Region V's argument is also in violation of EPA's regional consistency regulations, and further depends on an invalid "indefinite" stay issued under a statutory provision that is explicitly limited to only 90 days. No formal lawsuit has yet been filed. I recommend your intervention before Region V files such a suit, which will only make these issues more difficult to resolve.

# I. Region V insists on unproven control technology not required anywhere in the country.

MGPI's new whiskey aging warehouses are part of a broader strategy that has been simultaneously good for the environment and the economy: MGPI converted a coal-fired boiler to natural gas, purchased new energy-efficient equipment, and installed state-of-the-art emissions control technology. This activity has doubled the number of jobs MGPI provides to the region, to over 100. All the while, air pollution in the Lawrenceburg area has *decreased* significantly, with the area recently coming into "attainment" for ozone standards.

Despite these improvements, Region V is not satisfied with the measures that MGPI has implemented, and has asserted that MGPI must go further and control the "angels' share" emissions during the whiskey aging process. As whiskey ages, a small amount of the product naturally and unavoidably evaporates out of the barrels and into the air. The EPA has, for decades, taken the view that these are "fugitive emissions", generally not subject to regulation; the EPA first announced this position as long ago as 1978. State environmental regulators in Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, Tennessee, and Indiana itself agree. There is good reason for this: studies, including those by EPA, have shown that barrel environment is critical in whiskey aging, and even minor changes in air conditions could interfere with this environment and ruin the

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt June 21, 2017 Page 2

aging process. Despite this, Region V is demanding that MGPI install costly and unproven emissions control technology, which may ruin the quality of MGPI's whiskey.

## II. Region V did not provide "fair notice" of the policy MGPI has allegedly violated.

Beyond being economically harmful, Region V's action also rests on dubious legal grounds. Under the "fair notice" doctrine, agencies like the EPA have an obligation to tell the regulated community the "rules of the game" in advance of bringing an enforcement proceeding for allegedly violating them. Yet as of the date of the alleged violation, EPA's statements of position to the regulated community consistently reiterated that angels' share emissions were fugitive. Indeed, EPA headquarters publicly announced this position in a 2000 letter to Senator Bob Smith (R, NH), then Chairman of the Committee on Environment & Public Works. The EPA's Region IV, which contains the whiskey distilleries in Kentucky and Tennessee, shares this view. One study could not find "any facility in the nation" that is mandated to control emissions from whiskey aging operations. Even California does not regulate these emissions from its own distilleries, recognizing that control technology would interfere with the whiskey aging process.

Companies like MGPI are entitled to rely in good faith on consistently articulated EPA policies such as this. I have serious concerns about Region V attempting to hold MGPI liable for failing to anticipate that Region V would take a position contrary to the rest of the agency, and state regulators. As the late Justice Scalia put it for a unanimous Supreme Court decision: "It is hard to imagine a more violent breach of [the requirement of reasoned decision-making] than applying a rule of primary conduct ... which is in fact different than the rule or standard formally announced." Notably, courts have previously determined that the EPA failed to provide fair notice of an alleged violation when the positions of regional offices and headquarters conflicted.<sup>3</sup>

# III. Region V's stance flaunts EPA's regional consistency guidelines, putting future economic growth in Indiana at risk.

Region V's position not only calls into question basic principles of due process, but also violates the EPA's own regulations meant to assure fair and uniform application of the Clean Air Act. The EPA has promulgated "regional consistency" guidelines that require actions taken under the Act to be consistent with both headquarters policy and the activities of other regions.<sup>4</sup> As

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control Dist., Appendix K: Reasonable Available Control Technology Analysis (RACT) for Wine Fermentation, Wine Storage Tanks, and Brandy Aging at 12-13 (Apr. 30, 2007) (emphasis added), available at <a href="https://www.valleyair.org/Air Quality Plans/docs/AQ Ozone 2007 Adopted/28%20Appendix%20K%20April%202007.pdf">https://www.valleyair.org/Air Quality Plans/docs/AQ Ozone 2007 Adopted/28%20Appendix%20K%20April%202007.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Allentown Mack Sales and Service Inc. v. NLRB, 522 U.S. 359, 374 (1998).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Gen. Elec. Co. v. EPA, 53 F.3d 1324, 1332 (D.C. Cir. 1995).

<sup>4</sup> See 40 C.F.R. § 56.1 et seq.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt June 21, 2017 Page 3

discussed, Region V's position conflicts with policy at every level—state, other EPA regional offices, and EPA headquarters—and cannot stand under these guidelines.

Far from an abstract legal violation, Region V's policy is already beginning to have negative effects on economic growth in Indiana, which the guidelines are designed to prevent. MGPI wishes to further expand its business, and requires additional aging warehouses. MGPI has identified available warehouse space across the river in Kentucky, under the jurisdiction of EPA's Region IV. Because Region IV (like every EPA regional office other than Region V) adheres to the agency's longstanding position with regard to fugitive whiskey emissions, MGPI can age its whiskey there without having to navigate inconsistent regulatory interpretation and enforcement. Unless the position taken by a staff lawyer in Region V is reversed, MGPI will be forced to locate this and perhaps future expansions in Kentucky rather than Indiana. The regional consistency guidelines are meant to avoid just this type of situation where inconsistent regional positions cause economic development to be redirected from one state to another.

## IV. Region V improperly relies on an invalid stay to manufacture a violation.

Region V's enforcement case is all the more questionable because it relies on a stay that has long since expired. In 2008, President Bush's EPA issued a rule clarifying that fugitive emissions—such as MGPI's angels' share emissions—should generally not be counted when determining whether a new construction project can proceed. In 2009, President Obama's EPA stayed that rule pursuant to the Clean Air Act, which authorizes EPA to stay rules pending reconsideration, but *only* "for a period not to exceed three months." That three month stay has turned into an indefinite one: the 2008 rule is still on hold, nine years after it was supposed to take effect. The EPA has not even proposed potential revisions to the 2008 rule. Courts have held this tactic invalid, under both the Administrative Procedure Act and the Clean Air Act.

#### V. Action is required.

As you can see, Region V's action is an example of regional overreach, with significant adverse policy, economic, and legal consequences if allowed to continue.

I hope that you will take action to ensure that Region V does not continue this conduct. To date, Region V has only issued a notice of violation. The matter has not yet come to formal litigation, meaning there is an opportunity for Region V to reconsider its decision before the adverse consequences are fully felt. As Administrator, you have made clear your commitment to ending regulatory overreach, including by EPA regions. Asking Region V to reconsider its pending notice of violation would further this agenda, and help rein in a regional office that is pursuing minimal environmental advantage at the cost of concrete economic growth in the American heartland.

<sup>5 42</sup> U.S.C. § 7607(d)(7)(B).

**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt** June 21, 2017 Page 4

Sincerely,

Luke Messer Member of Congress

Justin Schwab cc:

Deputy General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460 The Honorable John M. McHugh Secretary Department of the Army The Pentagon, Room 3E700 Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Administrator McCarthy and Secretary McHugh:

We write to express our serious concerns with the proposed rule re-defining the scope of federal power under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and ask you to return this rule to your Agencies in order to address the legal, economic, and scientific deficiencies of the proposal.

On March 25, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a proposed rule that would assert CWA jurisdiction over nearly all areas with any hydrologic connection to downstream navigable waters, including man-made conveyances such as ditches. Contrary to your agencies' claims, this would directly contradict prior U.S. Supreme Court decisions, which imposed limits on the extent of federal CWA authority. Although your agencies have maintained that the rule is narrow and clarifies CWA jurisdiction, it in fact aggressively expands federal authority under the CWA while bypassing Congress and creating unnecessary ambiguity. Moreover, the rule is based on incomplete scientific and economic analyses.

The rule is flawed in a number of ways. The most problematic of these flaws concerns the significant expansion of areas defined as "waters of the U.S." by effectively removing the word "navigable" from the definition of the CWA. Based on a legally and scientifically unsound view of the "significant nexus" concept espoused by Justice Kennedy, the rule would place features such as ditches, ephemeral drainages, ponds (natural or man-made), prairie potholes, seeps, flood plains, and other occasionally or seasonally wet areas under federal control.

Additionally, rather than providing clarity and making identifying covered waters "less complicated and more efficient," the rule instead creates more confusion and will inevitably cause unnecessary litigation. For example, the rule heavily relies on undefined or vague concepts such as "riparian areas," "landscape unit," "floodplain," "ordinary high water mark" as determined by the agencies' "best professional judgment" and "aggregation." Even more egregious, the rule throws into confusion extensive state regulation of point sources under various CWA programs.

In early December of 2013, your agencies released a joint analysis stating that this rule would subject an additional three percent of U.S. waters and wetlands to CWA jurisdiction and that the rule would create an economic benefit of at least \$100 million annually. This calculation is seriously flawed. In this analysis, the EPA evaluated the FY 2009-2010 requests for jurisdictional determinations – a period of time that was the most economically depressed in

nearly a century. This period, for example, saw extremely low construction activity and should not have been used as a baseline to estimate the incremental acreage impacted by this rule. In addition, the derivation of the three percent increase calculation did not take into account the landowners who – often at no fault of their own – do not seek a jurisdictional determination, but rather later learn from your agencies that their property is subject to the CWA. These errors alone, which are just two of many in EPA's assumptions and methodology, call into question the veracity of any of the conclusions of the economic analysis.

Compounding both the ambiguity of the rule and the highly questionable economic analysis, the scientific report – which the agencies point to as the foundation of this rule – has been neither peer-reviewed nor finalized. The EPA's draft study, "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence," was sent to the EPA's Science Advisory Board to begin review on the same day the rule was sent to OMB for interagency review. The science should always come before a rulemaking, especially in this instance where the scientific and legal concepts are inextricably linked.

For all these reasons, we ask that this rule be withdrawn and returned to your agencies. This rule has been built on an incomplete scientific study and a flawed economic analysis. We therefore ask you to formally return this rule to your agencies.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS

Member of Congress

KURT SCHRADER

Member of Congress

BILL SHUSTER

Chairman

House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure LAMAR SMITH

Chairman

House Committee on

Science, Space, and Technology

FRED UPT

Chairman

House Committee on

Energy and Commerce

DOC HASTINGS

Chairman

House Committee on

Natural Resources

FRANK LUCAS

Chairman

House Committee on Agriculture

COLLIN PETERSON

Ranking Member

House Committee on Agriculture

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Member	Party	District
Don Young	R	AK-AL
Bradley Byrne	R	AL-1
Martha Roby	R	AL-2
Mike Rogers	R	AL-3
Robert Aderholt	R	AL-4
Mo Brooks	R	AL-5
Spencer Bachus	R	AL-6
Terri Sewell	D	AL-7
Rick Crawford	R	AR-1
Tim Griffin	R	AR-2
Steve Womack	R	AR-3
Tom Cotton	R	AR-4
Paul Gosar	R	AZ-4
Matt Salmon	R	AZ-5
David Schweikert	R	AZ-6
Trent Franks	R	AZ-8
Doug LaMalfa	R	CA-1
Jeff Denham	R	CA-10
Jim Costa	D	CA-16
David Valadao	R	CA-21
Devin Nunes	R	CA-22
Kevin McCarthy	R	CA-22
Howard "Buck" McKeon	R	CA-25
Gary Miller	R	CA-31
Tom McClintock	R	CA-4
Ken Calvert	R	CA-42
Dana Rohrabacher	R	CA-48
Darrell Issa	R	CA-49
Paul Cook	R	CA-8
Scott Tipton	R	CO-3
Cory Gardner	R	CO-4
Doug Lamborn	R	CO-5
Mike Coffman	R	CO-6
Jeff Miller	R	FL-1
Rich Nugent	R	FL-11
Gus Bilirakis	R	FL-12
Tom Rooney	R	FL-17
Steve Southerland	R	FL-2
Mario Diaz-Balart	R	FL-25
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R	FL-27
Ted Yoho	R	FL-3
Ron DeSantis	R	FL-6
John Mica	R	FL-7
Jack Kingston	R	GA-1
Paul Broun	R	GA-10
Phil Gingrey	R	GA-11

John Barrow	<sub>D</sub>	GA-12
David Scott	D	GA-12
Tom Graves	R	GA-14
	D	
Sanford Bishop	R	GA-2
Lynn Westmoreland		GA-3
Tom Price	R	GA-6
Rob Woodall	R	GA-7
Austin Scott	R	GA-8
Doug Collins	R	GA-9
Tom Latham	R	IA-3
Steve King	R	IA-5
Raul Labrador	R	ID-1
Michael Simpson	R	ID-2
William Enyart	D	IL-12
Rodney Davis	R	IL-13
Randy Hultgren	R	IL-14
John Shimkus	R	IL-15
Adam Kinzinger	R	IL-16
Aaron Schock	R	IL-18
Peter Roskam	R	IL-6
Jackie Walorski	R	IN-2
Marlin Stutzman	R	IN-3
Todd Rokita	R	IN-4
Susan Brooks	R	IN-5
Luke Messer	R	IN-6
Larry Bucshon	R	IN-8
Todd Young	R	IN-9
Tim Huelskamp	R	KS-1
Lynn Jenkins	R	KS-2
Kevin Yoder	R	KS-3
Mike Pompeo	R	KS-4
Ed Whitfield	R	KY-1
Brett Guthrie	R	KY-2
Thomas Massie	R	KY-4
Hal Rogers	R	KY-5
Andy Barr	R	KY-6
Cedric Richmond	D	LA-2
Charles Boustany	R	LA-3
John Fleming	R	LA-4
Vance McAllister	R	LA-5
Bill Cassidy	R	LA-6
Andy Harris	R	MD-1
Dan Benishek	R	MI-1
Candice Miller	R	MI-10
Kerry Bentivolio	R	MI-11
Bill Huizenga	R	MI-2
Justin Amash	R	MI-3

Dave Camp	R	MI-4
Fred Upton	R	MI-6
Tim Walberg	R	MI-7
Mike Rogers	R	MI-8
John Kline	R	MN-2
Erik Paulsen	R	MN-3
Michele Bachmann	R	MN-6
Collin Peterson	D	MN-7
Ann Wagner	R	MO-2
Blaine Luetkemeyer	R	MO-3
Vicky Hartzler	R	MO-4
Sam Graves	R	MO-6
Billy Long	R	MO-7
Jason Smith	R	MO-8
Alan Nunnelee	R	MS-1
Bennie G. Thompson	D	MS-2
Gregg Harper	R	MS-3
Steven Palazzo	R	MS-4
Patrick McHenry	R	NC-10
Mark Meadows	R	NC-11
George Holding	R	NC-13
Renee Ellmers	R	NC-2
Walter Jones	R	NC-3
Virginia Foxx	R	NC-5
Howard Coble	R	NC-6
Mike McIntyre	D	NC-7
Richard Hudson	R	NC-8
Robert Pittenger	R	NC-9
Kevin Cramer	R	ND-AL
Lee Terry	R	NE-2
Adrian Smith	R	NE-3
Scott Garrett	R	NJ-5
Steve Pearce	R	NM-2
Mark Amodei	R	NV-2
Joe Heck	R	NV-3
Michael Grimm	R	NY-11
Chris Gibson	R	NY-19
Peter King	R	NY-2
Bill Owens	D	NY-21
Richard Hanna	R	NY-22
Tom Reed	R	NY-23
Chris Collins	R	NY-27
Steve Chabot	R	OH-1
Michael Turner	R	OH-10
Patrick Tiberi	R	OH-12
David Joyce	R	OH-14
Steve Stivers	R	OH-15

Jim Renacci	R	OH-16
Brad Wenstrup	R	OH-2
Jim Jordan	R	OH-4
Robert Latta	R	OH-5
Bill Johnson	R	OH-6
Bob Gibbs	R	OH-7
Jim Bridenstine	R	OK-1
Markwayne Mullin	R	OK-2
Frank Lucas	R	OK-3
James Lankford	R	OK-5
Greg Walden	R	OR-2
Kurt Schrader	D	OR-5
Tom Marino	R	PA-10
Lou Barletta	R	PA-11
Keith Rothfus	R	PA-12
Charlie Dent	R	PA-15
Joe Pitts	R	PA-16
Tim Murphy	R	PA-18
Mike Kelly	R	PA-3
Scott Perry	R	PA-4
Glenn 'GT' Thompson	R	PA-5
Jim Gerlach	R	PA-6
Patrick Meehan	R	PA-7
Mike Fitzpatrick	R	PA-8
Bill Shuster	R	PA-9
Mark Sanford	R	SC-1
Joe Wilson	R	SC-2
Jeff Duncan	R	SC-3
Mick Mulvaney	R	SC-5
Tom Rice	R	SC-7
Kristi Noem	R	SD-AL
Phil Roe	R	TN-1
John J. Duncan, Jr.	R	TN-2
Chuck Fleishmann	R	TN-3
Scott DesJarlais	R	TN-4
Diane Black	R	TN-6
Marsha Blackburn	R	TN-7
Stephen Fincher	R	TN-8
Louie Gohmert	R	TX-1
Michael McCaul	R	TX-10
	R	TX-10
K. Michael Conaway	R	TX-12
Kay Granger	R	TX-12
Mac Thornberry  Pandy Woher	R	+
Randy Weber		TX-14
Ruben Hinojosa	D	TX-15
Bill Flores	R	TX-17
Randy Neugebauer	R	TX-19

Ted Poe	R	TX-2
Lamar Smith	R	TX-21
Pete Olson	R	TX-22
Pete Gallego	D	TX-23
Kenny Marchant	R	TX-24
Roger Williams	R	TX-25
Michael Burgess	R	TX-26
Blake Farenthold	R	TX-27
Henry Cuellar	D	TX-28
Sam Johnson	R	TX-3
John Carter	R	TX-31
Pete Sessions	R	TX-32
Marc Veasey	D	TX-33
Filemon Vela	D	TX-34
Steve Stockman	R	TX-36
Ralph Hall	R	TX-4
Jeb Hensarling	R	TX-5
Joe Barton	R	TX-6
John Culberson	R	TX-7
Kevin Brady	R	TX-8
Rob Bishop	R	UT-1
Chris Stewart	R	UT-2
Jason Chaffetz	R	UT-3
Jim Matheson	D	UT-4
Robert Wittman	R	VA-1
Frank Wolf	R	VA-10
Scott Rigell	R	VA-2
J. Randy Forbes	R	VA-4
Robert Hurt	R	VA-5
Bob Goodlatte	R	VA-6
Morgan Griffith	R	VA-9
Jaime Herrera Beutler	R	WA-3
Doc Hastings	R	WA-4
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	R	WA-5
Dave Reichert	R	WA-8
Paul Ryan	R	WI-3
Jim Sensenbrenner	R	WI-5
Tom Petri	R	WI-6
Sean Duffy	R	WI-7
Reid Ribble	R	WI-8
David McKinley	R	WV-1
Shelly Moore Capito	R	WV-2
Nick Rahall	D	WV-3
Cynthia Lummis	R	WY-AL

## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We write to you today to express our extreme concern with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 funded whatsupstream.com website and campaign, which recently has come to our attention. While we appreciate EPA's recent admission that wrongdoing occurred and that the campaign should never have been federally funded, we are still confused why EPA would have approved an award clearly violating a number of federal laws pertaining to funding propaganda, advocacy, and lobbying efforts. We find this revelation particularly disturbing, as it follows closely to both the EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) questioning of Region 10's award monitoring and a December 2015 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report that found EPA had committed similar violations on social media advocacy campaigns supporting EPA's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation (also known as the "Clean Water Rule").

As you are no doubt aware, federal law clearly directs that, "No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress." Further restrictions clearly prohibit federal funds being used for many of the advocacy and publicity materials used by the whatsupstream.com campaign, including publications, radio, and electronic communications. Despite this stark prohibition, the website whatsupstream.com has a button at the top of its site directing visitors to, "Take Action! We've made it simple." This button loads auto-generated text that will be sent to the visitor's respective Washington State legislators, urging the legislators to support, "stronger laws protecting the health of our water resources in Washington," by encouraging, "100-foot natural buffers between agriculture lands and streams." Additionally this site asserts that, "state government must hold the agricultural industry to the same level of responsibility as other industries...."

To be clear, whatsupstream.com has a disclaimer at the bottom of its website stating, "This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency." Based on our review of EPA Puget Sound Financial and Ecosystem Accounting Tracking System (FEATS) project reports, it appears that this campaign has been wholly funded by the EPA with no matching funds provided by any private or state and local government entities.<sup>4</sup>

Currently, the Washington State Department of Ecology is in the process of renewing the requirements for its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Washington State legislature has also considered other water quality and agricultural related legislation during this same time period. These state regulatory and legislative initiatives were pending and under consideration during the same time of the lobbying efforts funded by EPA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Don Jenkins, *Capital Press*, April 5, 2016, <a href="http://www.capitalpress.com/Nation">http://www.capitalpress.com/Nation</a> World/Nation/20160405/epas-reversal-on-whats-upstream-rings-hollow-to-ag-groups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Consolidated and Furthering Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013, Public Law 113-6, 127 Stat. 269 (2013)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Public Law 113-76, 128 Stat. 408 (2014)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> EPA Puget Sound Financial and Ecosystem Accounting Tracking Systems, PA-00J322-01, September 30, 2015, http://blogs.nwifc.org/psp/files/2016/02/Swinomish-FY12-4.1.15-9.30.15.pdf

What is more disturbing is that a July 14, 2014 report by the EPA's OIG found that Region 10 EPA project officers, "emphasized overall progress rather than compliance with specific subaward requirements. This emphasis on overall progress increased the risk that project officers would not detect issues needing corrective action that might impact the project meeting its goals." The report also found that of a sample of ten different EPA subawards, only three had protocols in place to ensure 501(c)(4) subaward recipients did not engage in lobbying activities.<sup>5</sup> Despite these warning signs, an October 30, 2015 EPA Region 10 FEATS report pertaining to the whatsupstream.com project concluded that, "As a result of extensive review and engagement by EPA, we have been revising the website, and have to [sic] restarted media outreach." This conclusion would seem to suggest that, even in spite of OIG's report, EPA reviewed, engaged, and approved of the current whatsupstream.com website that is in blatant violation of federal law.

As mentioned, on December 14, 2015, GAO issued an opinion finding that EPA violated propaganda and anti-lobbying laws by using certain social media platforms in association with the WOTUS regulation. By obligating and expending appropriated funds in violation of specific prohibitions contained in appropriations acts for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, GAO found EPA also violated the Antideficiency Act. The whatsupstream.com campaign appears to be part of an alarming trend where EPA engages in funding advocacy efforts against the very entities it is seeking to regulate. EPA cannot systematically choose when it wishes to follow the law and when it does not. Congress has made it explicitly clear that EPA's funding may not be used, "for publicity or propaganda purposes designed to support or defeat any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government."8

We are aware that Senators Inhofe and Roberts recently sent a letter to the EPA OIG requesting an official audit and investigation into the whatsupstream.com campaign and related activities, and the House Committee on Agriculture is conducting a related oversight investigation of EPA grant management. We fully support these requests, and strongly advise EPA's full and swift cooperation with all investigations and imminent oversight inquiries into this matter.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse

Member of Congress

Brad Ashford

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Collins, Eileen et al., EPA Should Improve Oversight and Assure the Environmental Results of the Puget Sound Cooperative Agreements (EPA OIG Report No. 14-P-0317) (Washington, DC: Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General, 2014), 8, https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-09/documents/20140715-14-p-0317.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> EPA Puget Sound Financial and Ecosystem Accounting Tracking Systems, PA-00J322-01, October 30, 2015, http://blogs.nwifc.org/psp/files/2016/02/Swinomish-FY13-4.1.15-9.30.15.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Poling, Susan A., Environmental Protection Agency--Application of Publicity or Propaganda and Anti-Lobbying Provisions (B-326944) (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2015), http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/674163.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Public Law 113-235, 128 Stat. 2393 (2014)

Member of Congress Member of Congress Rick Crawford Jim Costa Member of Congress Member of Congress Frank D. Lucas Member of Congress Member of Congress **Bob Goodlatte** Member of Congress Member of Congress Austin Scott Lamar Smith Member of Congress Member of Congress Mick Mulvaney Kristi Noem Member of Congress Member of Congress Steve Pearce Cypthia Lummis Member of Congress Member of Congress tianks Brett Guthrie nt Franks Member of Congress Member of Congress Tim Walberg Tom Reed Member of Congress Member of Congress

James Jue Luj	Tom Graves
Blaine Luetkemeyer Member of Congress	Tom Graves Member of Congress
Robert E. Latta Member of Congress	Stephen Fincher Member of Congress
Darin LaHood Member of Congress	Dana Rohrabacher Member of Congress
Sam Johnson Member of Congress	Mike Simpson Member of Congress
Tom McClintock Member of Congress	Tim Murphy Member of Congress
Walter B. Jones Member of Congress	Steve Chabot Member of Congress
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Jeb/Hensarling Member of Congress	Pete Sessions Member of Congress
Vicky Hartzler  Member of Congress	Jason Chaffetz Member of Congress

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Brad Wenstrup

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Sean Duffy Member of Congress

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Sam Graves Member of Congress

Charles Boustany Member of Congress

Mike Bost

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Keith Rothfus

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Renee Ellmers

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Mo Brooks

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Tim Huelskamp

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Chris Collins Member of Congress Pason Smith
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Devin Nunes Member of Congress

Mark Meadows Member of Congress

Martha McSally Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman Member of Congress

Tom Emmer Member of Congress

Luke Messer
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Kevin Cramer Member of Congress

Evan Jenkins (Member of Congress

Paul Gosar, D.D.S.

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Randy Weber

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Dan Benishek, M.D. Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais, M.D. Member of Congress Member of Congress mil B. M7 Ce David B. McKinley, P.E. Ken Buck Member of Congress Member of Congress Ralph Abraham, M.D. Jackie Walorski Member of Congress Member of Congress David Rouzer Mike Bishop Member of Congress Member of Congress Richard Hudson Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter Member of Congress Member of Congress Mike Pompeo Ann Wagner Member of Congress Member of Congress Ron DeSantis evin Brady Member of Congress Member of Congress Mark Walker Brian Babin Member of Congress Member of Congress

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Candice Miller Member of Congress	Doug LaMalfa Member of Congress
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Steven Palazzo Member of Congress	Jeff Miller Member of Congress
Cathy McMorris Rodgers Member of Congress	Gary Palmer Member of Congress
Rod Blum Member of Congress	Kevin Yoder Member of Congress
Jim Bridenstine Member of Congress	Mia Love Member of Congress
Robert Pittenger Member of Congress	Mimi Walters Member of Congress
Darry Londermilk Member of Congress	Jeff Duncan Member of Congress

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cc: Mr. Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General, U.S. Government Accountability Office Mr. Arthur Elkins, Jr., Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency

## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

#### Dear Madam Administrator:

The undersigned Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are writing to express our concern with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft ecological risk assessment on atrazine. In its present form, it would have a significant negative impact on farmers and rural communities nationwide.

Atrazine has been used for decades as an effective herbicide for tens of thousands of growers, and it is particularly important for corn, sugar cane and sorghum producers. Moreover, it is one of the most thoroughly studied herbicides used today, accounting for nearly 7,000 scientific studies. Unfortunately, EPA's draft ecological risk assessment throws its future use into doubt, an outcome that, according to many, may not be scientifically justified. This criticism appears to be borne out by the agency's approach, where it is setting standards on studies that the EPA's own Science Advisory Panel considered "flawed" in 2012.

When used properly and in accordance with label instructions, atrazine is one of the most vital herbicides available to farmers. It has been used safely for more than fifty years and is a critical tool in assuring the sustainability of many farms nationwide. Farmers are great stewards of their land, and they understand the importance of using safe products on their crops. Limiting atrazine would create a reliance on more expensive and environmentally harmful pesticides, and make conservation efforts more difficult by impeding farming methods such as no-till or strip-till.

It would be irresponsible to greatly restrict one of the safest and most trusted herbicides on the market. Various economic analysis studies show farming without atrazine could cost growers up to \$59 per acre. This is especially detrimental to the small family farms that would be hurt by an unsubstantiated government decision.

With this information in mind we ask that you take into account the needs of farmers and use sound science when finalizing the ecological risk assessment for atrazine. It is imperative that EPA take the science and public comments seriously and revise the preliminary ecological risk assessment using the best available data. We look forward to your response.

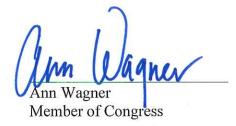
Sincerely, Rod Blum Ken Buck Member of Congress Member of Congress Glenn Grothman Scott Tipton Member of Congress Member of Congress Tim Huelskamp Rick Crawford Member of Congress Member of Congress Mike Pompe Randy K. Weber Member of Congress Member of Congress Kevin Yoder Kevin Cramer Member of Congress Member of Congress cott DesJarlais

Member of Congress

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Mark Meadows Member of Congress	Gregg Hatner Member of Congress
Lynn Jenkins  Lynn Jenkins  Member of Congress	Walter B. Jones  Member of Congress
Tom Emmer Member of Congress	Charles Boustany, MD Member of Congress
Adrian Smith Member of Congress	Richard Hudson Member of Congress
Bradley Byrne Member of Congress	Mike Bost Member of Congress
Louie Gohmert Member of Congress	Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress
Yaul A. Gosar Member of Congress	Mac Thornberry Member of Congress
Steve Pearce Member of Congress	Brad Ashford Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger Brian Babin Member of Congress Member of Congress Frank Lucas Trent Kelly Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress e Chapa Steve Chabot Steve Stivers Member of Congress Member of Congress Dave Bra Rodney Davis Member of Congress Member of Congress John Shimkus Member of Congress Member of Congress Luke Messer Bill Johnson, Member of Congress Member of Congres F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. Randy Neugebayer Member of Congress Member of Congress

Raúl Labrador Member of Congress  Ted S. Yoho, DVM Member of Congress	Stephen Fincher Member of Congress  Vicky Hartzler Member of Congress
Tim Walberg Member of Congress  Thomas J. Rooney Member of Congress	Ralph Abraham, MD Member of Congress
Martha McSally Member of Congress  Blake Farenthold Member of Congress	John Moolenaar Member of Congress  Jim Renacci Member of Congress
Jackie Walorski Member of Congress	Bruce Westerman Member of Congress
Susan W. Brooks Member of Congress	Joug Fomborn Doug Lamborn Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo Member of Congress

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Todd Rokita Member of Congress

Thomas Massie

Thomas Massie Member of Congress

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

Chris Collins Member of Congress

David Schweikert Member of Congress Brad Wenstrup

Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D. Member of Congress

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Blaine Luetkemeyer Member of Congress

French Hill

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Jeff Duncan

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> Dan Newhouse Member of Congress

Steve King

Michael R. Turner Daniel Webster Member of Congress Member of Congress Vilemon Vela Henry Cuellar, PhD Member of Congress Member of Congress Teve Scalise Steve Scalise Dan Benishek M.D. Member of Congress Member of Congress Fred Upton Mark Walker Member of Congress Member of Congress Kristi Noem San Graves Member of Congress Member of Congress H. Morgan Gri Bill Flores Member of Congres Member of Congress Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 1 6 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your November 1, 2016, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding atrazine. Atrazine is currently undergoing re-evaluation at the EPA as part of the agency's mandated periodic review of registered pesticides.

As part of this process, the EPA released atrazine's draft ecological risk assessment for public comment in June 2016. The comment period closed on October 5, 2016. We will add your letter to the docket to capture it in the public record. The draft assessment does not recommend restrictions – i.e., measures to mitigate risks – on atrazine. Rather, the purpose of publishing the draft ecological risk assessment is to present information based on current science and policy and to solicit comments on the agency's methodologies, data and studies used to assess the potential ecological risks associated with the use of atrazine. In 2017, the agency anticipates completing the draft human health risk assessment and convening a Federal, Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) on the revised ecological risk assessment, after which, we will update the ecological risk assessment.

After the EPA has reviewed and considered the public and the SAP comments, then we will determine whether any mitigation measures on atrazine are necessary to address risk issues. That consideration will include a careful weighing of the risks posed by atrazine and the benefits of its use. The EPA is aware of the issues regarding the potential trade-off between atrazine usage and nutrient/water quality conservation. As with the draft risk assessments, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the agency's proposed mitigation measures and we will evaluate and consider the comments before making a decision.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

James J. Jones

Assistant Administrator

# Congress of the United States

Mashington, DC 20515

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt

Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20460

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Lieutenant General Semonite,

The undersigned members of Congress write in support of the Administration's recent efforts to review and rescind the controversial Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.1344). Following interagency review by the Office of Management and Budget, a proposal to withdraw the rule has been signed for publication in the Federal Register. Mirroring this proposal, this delegation also urges a permanent withdrawal of the current WOTUS rule and limitations on funding for any implementation.

Finalized on June 29, 2015, the Obama Administration's WOTUS rule, if implemented would give the federal government excessive authority to regulate any body of water considered "navigable" in scope. While the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeal's injunction temporarily blocked this rule's implementation, it is still imperative that this unduly expansive rule be permanently rescinded. We believe that the definition of "navigable waters" is overly vague, exceeds the authority provided by Congress, and perpetually hinders the property rights of farmers, ranchers, and business owners across Indiana. Landowners subject to the rule are perfectly capable of protecting lands and keeping applicable waters free of pollution. Furthermore, permanent withdrawal of the current WOTUS rule will foster a regulatory environment that promotes, rather than punishes, economic productivity.

It is because of the concerns listed above that we support this Administration's proposed rule to rescind the current WOTUS rule and proceed with development of a new rule that is more reflective of Congressional intent. We believe the American farmers, ranchers, landowners, and small business owners deserve a regulatory environment that incentivizes economic growth, minimizes uncertainty, and re-emphasizes respect for the roles of Congress and the states authorized under the Constitution.

We look forward to working with your agencies to coordinate this effort and firmly believe that a permanent withdrawal of the current WOTUS rule will best serve Indiana as well as this nation's interests. Thank you for your attention to and thorough review of this matter.

Sinderely,

M BANKS (IN-3)

Member of Congress

JACKIE WALORSKI (IN-2)

TODD ROKITA (IN-4) Member of Congress

SUSAN W. BROOKS (IN-5) Member of Congress

LUKE MESSER (IN-6) Member of Congress

LARRY BYCSHON, M.D. (IN-8) Member of Congress

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TREY HOLLINGSWORTH (IN-9) Member of Congress Luke Messer 6th District, Indiana

Republican Policy Committee Chairman

Committee on Financial Services

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Deputy Whip



Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 Washington Office:

508 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225–3021

District Offices:

2 Public Square Shelbyville, IN 46176 (317) 421–0704 (855) 341–8196

107 West Charles Street Muncie, IN 47305 (765) 747–5566

50 North 5th Street, 2nd Floor Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 962–2883

July 14, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt Administrator Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

Certainly, many of the regulatory actions taken by the previous administration's EPA circumvented Congressional authority and harmed job creators and our economy in the pursuit of a political agenda. These actions are worthy of your full and complete review. However, there are some regulatory actions taken by previous administrations that are indeed within the scope of the EPA's statutory authority, good environmental policy, and beneficial to the economy. I write to you today regarding one of those regulatory actions that I believe is worthy of future consideration: the EPA's Endangerment Finding for Lead Emissions from Piston-Engine Aircraft Using Leaded Aviation Gasoline (Docket No.: EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0294).

Lead is a toxic metal, hazardous to humans, which has been largely removed from fuels, paint, etc. over the past decades. However, one area still dependent upon Lead is its use in aviation gasoline (avgas) for piston aircraft. The EPA has taken steps since 2008 to analyze and prepare an endangerment finding impacting Lead used in avgas. The EPA's current timetable for issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding an endangerment finding for Lead in avgas is calendar year 2017, with a final determination to be issued in 2018.

This timetable coincides with the conclusion of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Piston Aviation Fuels Initiative (PAFI), a 5-year public-private partnership between the FAA, Department of Transportation (DOT), and participating industry partners across the General Aviation community to "get the Lead out" of aviation gasoline. At the end of the PAFI process, the FAA expects to issue a fleetwide certification for unleaded aviation gasoline so that all piston aircraft can continue to fly.

It is my understanding that FAA intends on meeting its 2018 deadline to complete the PAFI process and I am hopeful that EPA can say the same regarding the Aviation Lead Emissions Endangerment Finding. Most importantly, the FAA needs the EPA's endangerment finding to complete its own rulemaking work to support a fleetwide transition to unleaded avgas.

Can you please provide an update as to the status of the Aviation Lead Emissions Endangerment Finding and whether EPA anticipates being able to meet the schedule of a final determination in 2018?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and I look forward to your response.

Sinceply,
Museum

uke Messer

Member of Congress

# Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530 The Honorable Scott Pruitt Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460

Dear Attorney General Sessions and Administrator Pruitt,

As you review the litigation that was pending on behalf of your agencies when you assumed office, we write to bring to your attention *Murray Energy Corp. v. McCarthy*, a case pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

The case centers on the EPA's obligation, as clearly established in the Clean Air Act (CAA), to continuously evaluate potential losses or shifts of employment resulting from administration or enforcement of the CAA. We agree with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia's sound interpretation of the law on this matter and respectfully urge you to withdraw the pending appeal. We are encouraged by prior stances that each of you have taken on this issue.

As you may recall, §321(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7621(a)) provides:

The Administrator shall conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of this chapter and applicable implementation plans, including where appropriate, investigating threatened plant closures or reductions in employment allegedly resulting from such administration or enforcement.

The EPA has construed this provision as a discretionary duty, disregarding the plain language of the law and the relevant legislative history. In fact, the EPA has never complied with this statutory requirement. As recently as 2009, Administrator Gina McCarthy asserted that the agency "has not interpreted CAA section 321 to require EPA to conduct employment investigations in taking regulatory actions" and that "[c]onducting such investigations as part of rulemakings would have limited utility."

On March 24, 2014, Murray Energy Corporation ("Murray") filed a civil action against the EPA, asserting that the EPA's refusal "to evaluate the impact that its actions are having on the American coal industry and the hundreds of thousands of people it directly or indirectly employs" is irreparably harming the plaintiffs.

On October 17, 2016, the District Court granted summary judgment in favor of Murray, ordering the EPA to fully comply with the requirements of § 321(a) and further noting that "it would be an abuse of discretion for the EPA to refuse to conduct a § 321(a) evaluation on the effects of its regulations on the coal industry.

The EPA's assertion that the § 321(a) provisions are discretionary or satisfied by EPA's compliance with other requirements flouts the plain language of the Clean Air Act. In effect, the EPA is seeking to selectively choose which laws to enforce. By refusing to carry out the law on this matter, the EPA is picking winners and losers in the economy. Its interpretation of this law results in a dereliction of the EPA's duty to examine the employment effects of regulations and the wholesale destruction of the copper mining, steel, textile, and coal mining industries.

Over the last four decades, these industries have borne the burden of increased regulatory mandates and costs. As Congress examines avenues for fostering economic growth, such as identifying the negative impacts of regulatory burdens on certain industries, it is imperative that the EPA interpret § 321(a) of the Clean Air Act at face value, without ignoring its clear obligations under federal law.

Should you decide to withdraw this appeal, the EPA's analysis of the costs of regulations will give lawmakers the tools and information needed to accurately examine the impact of the Clean Air Act on American jobs. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

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### List of Signers

- 1. Representative John Ratcliffe
- 2. Senator Deb Fischer
- 3. Representative Bob Goodlatte
- 4. Representative Paul Gosar
- 5. Representative Tom Marino
- 6. Representative Mark Walker
- 7. Representative Glenn Grothman
- 8. Representative Mike Kelly
- 9. Representative H. Morgan Griffith
- 10. Representative Scott Perry
- 11. Representative Steve Pearce
- 12. Representative Gary Palmer
- 13. Representative Andy Biggs
- 14. Representative Bob Gibbs
- 15. Representative Bruce Westerman
- 16. Representative Steve Chabot
- 17. Representative Tom Emmer
- 18. Representative Kevin Cramer
- 19. Representative Jim Banks
- 20. Representative Ted Yoho
- 21. Representative Rick Allen
- 22. Representative Richard Hudson
- 23. Representative Roger Marshall
- 24. Representative Brian Babin
- 25. Representative Jody Hice
- 26. Representative Mike Johnson
- 27. Representative Jim Renacci
- 28. Representative Pramila Jayapal
- 29. Representative Barry Loudermilk
- 30. Representative Randy Weber
- 31. Representative Trent Kelly
- 32. Representative Evan Jenkins
- 33. Representative Dave Brat
- 34. Representative Ron DeSantis
- 35. Representative Lynn Jenkins
- 36. Representative Andy Barr
- 37. Representative Roger Williams
- 38. Representative Dan Newhouse
- 39. Representative Doug Lamborn
- 40. Representative Luke Messer
- 41. Representative Doug Collins
- 42. Representative Jeff Duncan
- 43. Representative Lamar Smith

- 44. Representative Brett Guthrie45. Representative Pete Sessions46. Representative Bill Flores

- 47. Representative Austin Scott 48. Representative Scott DesJarlais
- 49. Representative Michael Burgess 50. Senator Roger Wicker
- 51. Senator James Inhofe
- 52. Senator Shelley Moore Capito 53. Senator Ben Sasse
- 54. Senator Tom Cotton

#### Luke Messer 6th District, Indiana

Committee on Financial Services

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Freshman Class President

Assistant Republican Whip



October 10, 2014

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Secretary Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary McCarthy:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the impact of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations on energy costs and their disproportionate harm to seniors on fixed incomes.

According to a new study released by the 60 Plus Association, future higher energy costs caused in part by current and pending EPA regulations "are likely to outstrip real household incomes among the 63% of America's 65+ households with gross annual incomes less than \$50,000." The new Clean Power Plan alone is projected to increase electricity costs by more than \$289 billion according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

There must be an appropriate balance between environmental protection and its real world consequences. Our national resources must be protected and responsible standards set to make sure we all live in a safer and cleaner world. The EPA should play a constructive role in this process. However, regulations must account for their real-world impact, especially on those who can least afford them – like seniors on fixed incomes.

I respectfully encourage you to further evaluate the impact current and proposed EPA regulations will have on America's senior population. With nearly one quarter of American households aged 65 or older, it is crucial that policies are properly evaluated so as not to unfairly burden an already vulnerable population that cannot afford to pay more for a basic necessity like electricity.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request.

is request.

Luke Messer

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

Washington Office:

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107 West Charles Street Muncie, IN 47305 (765) 747–5566

50 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 962–2883



#### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

### NOV 2 4 2014

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Luke Messer U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

#### Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter of October 10, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants that was signed by the Administrator on June 2, 2014, and published in the *Federal Register* on June 18, 2014. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

Climate change induced by human activities is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It already threatens human health and welfare and our economic well-being, and if left unchecked, it will have devastating impacts on the United States and the planet. Power plants are the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clean Power Plan aims to cut energy waste and leverage cleaner energy sources by doing two things. First, it uses a national framework to set achievable state-specific goals to cut carbon pollution per megawatt hour of electricity generated. Second, it empowers the states to chart their own paths to meet their goals. The proposal builds on what states, cities and businesses around the country are already doing to reduce carbon pollution, and when fully implemented in 2030, carbon emissions will be reduced by approximately 30 percent from the power sector across the United States when compared with 2005 levels. In addition, we estimate the proposal will cut the pollution that causes smog and soot by 25 percent, avoiding up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks by 2020.

Additionally, the EPA projects that the Clean Power Plan will continue—and accelerate—the trend towards increased energy efficiency and reduced electricity demand. Nationally, this means that in 2030 when the plan is fully implemented, electricity bills are expected to be roughly 8 percent lower than they would have been otherwise. That would save Americans approximately \$8 on their average monthly residential electricity bill.

Before issuing this proposal, the EPA heard from more than 300 stakeholder groups from around the country to learn more about what programs are already working to reduce carbon pollution. These meetings, with states, utilities, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, consumer groups, industry, and others, reaffirmed that states are leading the way. The Clean Air

Act provides the tools to build on these state actions in ways that will achieve meaningful reductions and recognizes that the way we generate power in this country is diverse, complex and interconnected.

During the week of July 29<sup>th</sup>, the EPA conducted eight full days of public hearings in four cities. Over 1,300 people shared their thoughts and ideas about the proposal and over 1,400 additional people attended those hearings.

Recognizing that the proposal asks for comment on a range of issues, some of which are complex, the EPA initially proposed this rule with a 120-day comment period. The EPA has decided to extend the comment period by an additional 45 days, in order to get the best possible advice and data to inform a final rule.

The public comment period will now remain open until December 1, 2014. We encourage you and all interested parties to provide us with detailed comments on all aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted, regardless of method of submittal, will receive the same consideration. We have submitted your letter to the rulemaking docket, but additional comments can be submitted via any one of these methods:

- Federal eRulemaking portal: <a href="http://www.regulations.gov">http://www.regulations.gov</a>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: <u>A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov</u>. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 on the cover page.
- Mail: Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC), Mailcode 28221T, Attention Docket ID No. OAR–2013-0602, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Cheryl Mackay in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at mackay.cheryl@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2023.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

1467cla

Acting Assistant Administrator

## Eades, Cassaundra

From:

Lewis, Josh

Sent:

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 1:08 PM Eades, Cassaundra; Mims, Kathy

To: Cc:

Mackay, Cheryl

Subject:

FW: Member Letter to Administrator McCarthy on Comment Period for upcoming GHG rule

Attachments:

Final GHG 120 day comment period letter.pdf

For CMS...

From: Orth, Patrick [mailto:Patrick.Orth@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2014 2:37 PM **To:** Distefano, Nichole; Lewis, Josh

Cc: Baker III, John; Beukelman, Jan; Hart, Ryan (Rep. Jason Smith)

Subject: Member Letter to Administrator McCarthy on Comment Period for upcoming GHG rule

Nichole and Josh – attached is a letter from 178 bipartisan Members of the House asking 'for a comment period of at least 120 days on the forthcoming new source performance standards for existing coal-based power plants.' My boss, Mr. Johnson (OH), Mr. Thompson (MS), Mr. Smith, and Mr. Matheson were the 4 co-leads on the letter. I've copied the full list of names below since many signatures are hard to read. Please let us know if you have any questions and have a great holiday weekend.

Best regards,

Patrick

Patrick Orth Legislative Director Congressman Bill Johnson, OH-6 202-225-5705 patrick.orth@mail.house.gov

Bill Johnson

Bennie Thompson

Jason Smith

Matheson

Steve Daines

Dennis Ross

Walter Jones

Tom Rooney

Gene Green

Reid Ribble

Dave Jolly

Collin C. Peterson

Jim Costa

Kevin Cramer

Mario Diaz-Balart

Jeff Miller (FL)

Henry Cuellar

Randy Hultgren

David McKinley

Steve Southerland

Daniel Webster

Ted Yoho

John Duncan (TN)

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Vicky Hartzler

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**Bob Latta** 

Tom Price

Mac Thornberry

Dan Benishek

Steve King

Steven M. Palazzo

Jason Chaffetz

Phil Roe

Rob Bishop

Mike McIntyre

Robert Aderholt

**Bob Gibbs** 

Dave Loebsack

Shelley Moore

Capito

David Joyce

Bill Huizenga

Mark Meadows

Gus Bilirakis

Alan Nunnelee

Trent Franks

Spencer Bachus

Pete P. Gallego

Jackie Walorski

Blaine

Luetkemeyer

Diane Black

Tom Reed

Patrick J. Tiberi

Cynthia Lummis

Mick Mulvaney

Gregg Harper

Aaron Schock

Ileana Ros-

Lehtinen

Howard Coble

Steve Pearce

Jeff Fortenberry

Ann Kirkpatrick

Keith Rothfus

Robert Pittenger

Cheri Bustos

David Scott

Tom Cole

Adam Kinzinger

Scott Garrett

Markwayne Mullin

Kristi Noem

Mike Rogers (AL)

Tim Walberg

Ann Wagner

Tom Graves

Mark Amodei

Charles Boustany

Rick Crawford

Ron Barber

Mike Conaway

Nick Rahall

Duncan Hunter

Jim Jordan

Cory Gardner

Sean Duffy

Jack Kingston

Tom Cotton

Tim Huelskamp

Scott DesJarlais

Marsha Blackburn

Lynn

Westmoreland

Lynn Jenkins

Steve Womack

Tim Griffin

Paul Gosar

Rob Woodall

Michele Bachmann

**Austin Scott** 

Phil Gingrey

Tim Murphy

Sanford Bishop

Rich Nugent

Tom Rice

Martha Roby

David Schweikert

Don Young (AL)

Jim Renacci

Doug Collins (GA)

Doug Lamborn

John Barrow

Andy Barr

Mike Pompeo

Tom Petri

Tim Walz

Charlie Dent

Chuck Fleischmann

Steve Stockman

Frank Lucas

Chris Collins (NY)

William L. Enyart

Kristen Sinema

Scott Tipton

Thomas Massie

Mark Sanford

Brad Wenstrup

Ruben Hinojosa

Randy Neugebauer

Mike Coffman

Luke Messer

Richard Hudson

Jeff Duncan

John Kline

Larry Bucshon

Ron DeSantis

Adrian Smith

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Chris Stewart

Cedric L.

Richmond

Danny Davis

Tom Latham

Wm. Lacy Clay

Filemon Vila

**Emanuel Cleaver** 

Renee Ellmers

Joyce Beatty

Virginia Foxx

Steve Chabot

Mike Turner

John Shimkus

Randy Forbes

Marlin Stutzman

# Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460

### Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We are writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency provide a sufficiently long comment period on its upcoming regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. The Agency should provide at least a 120 day comment period, given the significant impact this rule could have on our nation's electricity providers and consumers, on jobs in communities that have existing coal-based power plants, and on the economy as a whole.

The upcoming proposal will necessarily be more complex for the industry to deal with than the proposal for new plants, and stakeholders will need time to analyze the rule and determine its impact on individual power plants and on the electric system as a whole. This analysis will be no small undertaking, especially since this will be the first ever regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants. Additionally, since the EPA extended the original 60 day comment period for the new plant proposal, it makes sense to provide at least the same timeline for the existing plant rule.

Affordable and reliable electricity is essential to the quality of life to our constituents. While we can all agree that clean air is important, EPA has an obligation to understand the impacts that regulations have on all segments of society. As one step toward fulfilling this obligation, we urge you to provide for a comment period of at least 120 days on the forthcoming new source performance standards for existing coal-based power plants.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

1 ( Marpsay

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Joh J Durage.

## Eades, Cassaundra

From:

Lewis, Josh

Sent:

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 1:08 PM Eades, Cassaundra; Mims, Kathy

To: Cc:

Mackay, Cheryl

Subject:

FW: Member Letter to Administrator McCarthy on Comment Period for upcoming GHG rule

Attachments:

Final GHG 120 day comment period letter.pdf

For CMS...

From: Orth, Patrick [mailto:Patrick.Orth@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2014 2:37 PM **To:** Distefano, Nichole; Lewis, Josh

Cc: Baker III, John; Beukelman, Jan; Hart, Ryan (Rep. Jason Smith)

Subject: Member Letter to Administrator McCarthy on Comment Period for upcoming GHG rule

Nichole and Josh – attached is a letter from 178 bipartisan Members of the House asking 'for a comment period of at least 120 days on the forthcoming new source performance standards for existing coal-based power plants.' My boss, Mr. Johnson (OH), Mr. Thompson (MS), Mr. Smith, and Mr. Matheson were the 4 co-leads on the letter. I've copied the full list of names below since many signatures are hard to read. Please let us know if you have any questions and have a great holiday weekend.

Best regards,

Patrick

Patrick Orth Legislative Director Congressman Bill Johnson, OH-6 202-225-5705 patrick.orth@mail.house.gov

Bill Johnson

Bennie Thompson

Jason Smith

Matheson

Steve Daines

Dennis Ross

Walter Jones

Tom Rooney

Gene Green

Reid Ribble

Dave Jolly

Collin C. Peterson

Jim Costa

Kevin Cramer

Mario Diaz-Balart

Jeff Miller (FL)

Henry Cuellar

Randy Hultgren

David McKinley

Steve Southerland

Daniel Webster

Ted Yoho

John Duncan (TN)

Lee Terry

Steve Stivers

Ander Crenshaw

Stephen Fincher

Ed Perlmutter

Morgan Griffith

Sam Graves

Paul Broun

James Lankford

Vicky Hartzler

Billy Long

**Bob Latta** 

Tom Price

Mac Thornberry

Dan Benishek

Steve King

Steven M. Palazzo

Jason Chaffetz

Phil Roe

Rob Bishop

Mike McIntyre

Robert Aderholt

**Bob Gibbs** 

Dave Loebsack

Shelley Moore

Capito

David Joyce

Bill Huizenga

Mark Meadows

Gus Bilirakis

Alan Nunnelee

Trent Franks

Spencer Bachus

Pete P. Gallego

Jackie Walorski

Blaine

Luetkemeyer

Diane Black

Tom Reed

Patrick J. Tiberi

Cynthia Lummis

Mick Mulvaney

Gregg Harper

Aaron Schock

Ileana Ros-

Lehtinen

Howard Coble

Steve Pearce

Jeff Fortenberry

Ann Kirkpatrick

Keith Rothfus

Robert Pittenger

Cheri Bustos

David Scott

Tom Cole

Adam Kinzinger

Scott Garrett

Markwayne Mullin

Kristi Noem

Mike Rogers (AL)

Tim Walberg

Ann Wagner

Tom Graves

Mark Amodei

Charles Boustany

Rick Crawford

Ron Barber

Mike Conaway

Nick Rahall

Duncan Hunter

Jim Jordan

Cory Gardner

Sean Duffy

Jack Kingston

Tom Cotton

Tim Huelskamp

Scott DesJarlais

Marsha Blackburn

Lynn

Westmoreland

Lynn Jenkins

Steve Womack

Tim Griffin

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John Kline

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Filemon Vila

**Emanuel Cleaver** 

Renee Ellmers

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Marlin Stutzman

# Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20460

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Luke Messer 6th District, Indiana

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Education and the Workforce

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Freshman Class President

Assistant Republican Whip



#### Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Washington Office:

508 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225–3021

District Offices:

107 West Charles Street Muncie, IN 47305 (765) 747–5566

50 North 5th Street, 2nd Floor Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 962–2883

October 8, 2013

Ms. Laura Vaught Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 3426 ARN Washington, DC 20460-0003

Re: Thomas Brewster SS#: 305-50-5183

Dear Ms. Laura Vaught:

This is in reference to the environmental complaint from our constituent (b) (6) s. We have also forwarded his complaint to Medicare as well.

I would appreciate any information that you could provide to me regarding our constituent's concern.

All future correspondence concerning (b) (6) scales case may be sent to my Muncie District Office located at 107 West Charles Street, Muncie, Indiana 47304.

Sincerely,

Luke Messer

Member of Congress

Le Messon

LM/kp

Luke Messer Sixth District, Indiana

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Washington Office:

508 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-3021 (202) 225-3382

District Offices:

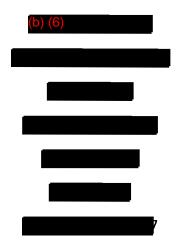
107 W. Charles Street Muncie, IN 47305 (765) 747-5566 Fax: (765) 747-5586

50 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Richmond, IN 47374 (765) 962-2883 Fax: (765) 962-3225

## Authorization in Accordance with the 1974 Privacy Act

Name:(b) (6)	(b) (6)					
(b) (6)						
City:	(b) (6) (6)					
(b) (6)	Work Phone:					
Social Security #:(b) (6)	Claim #:					
Attorney:	Attorney Phone#:					
are experiencing. Send copies of any relevar indicate if you have a representative working						
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I, the undersigned, hereby authorized the off information in my file pertinent to his inquire	fice of U.S. Representative Luke Messer to receive ry on my behalf.					
SIGNATURE: (b) (6)	Date:(b) (6)					

#### Presentation by



For the purpose of a question

Concerning fraud of Medicare due to

The use of Biological Agents

#### Introduction

The next pages recount the experiences; I personally had while in (6) (6) in synopsis and rough outline form. My medical records and receipts for rent can confirm the validity of my claims.

Furthermore, some patterns were observed in the amounts or volumes of gases used and the toxicity (toxic effects on my body) of the gases. The (b) (6) Inn was where I resided longest at approximately, one decade of time.

All of that effect plus more from fumes at my next apartment, culminated in my prostate and kidneys shutting-down. Since my hospital stay I have been steadily trying to work to improve my body and mind.

I left dialysis sessions on my own cognizance after realizing my progress would not improve any further; because of, the weakening effects on my body from the strain on my body from the dialysis effects. Even though I did not get the tubes shoved-down my jugular vein into my heart removed for approximately one year after it had been inserted by that time, the innovative material so constructed to allow flesh to attach to it, had attached so much flesh that it took a lot more cutting-off of the flesh and continuously finding more flesh attached while I attempted not to scream-out in revulsion every time pulling on the tubes still attached happened until extra holes and separate pieces were all finally pulled-out of my heart and vein!!!

The reason that I could have the tube removed was that I had a fistula put in my arm as another way dialysis could still work if required. The surgeon said that he thought it was a good plan.

I did feel fortunate getting done doubly so; because of, the turmoil going-on in the medical profession. Namely, the Baby Boomers trying to retire and the Gravy Train is over.

#### **Biological Agent Spewings**

Biological Agents; Chemical Compounds that exist in the air from a source that should not be there; because of, the effects on organic life. Example: Pollution

#### I. Observations:

#### A. Odors/Smells

1. Four to five locations where I had lived in Muncie Indiana since 1987 ... Hiatus... 1990, or, so, ...

#### 2. Buses

- a. Exhaust
- b. Inside of the buses/ventilation more than carbon dioxide levels
- c. Inside the MITs transit station

#### 3. Places of business

- a. Grocery Stores especially the produce departments
- b. Department stores
- c. Hotels/Motels
- d. Business supplies

#### 4. Effect on the environment

a. The previous trees around the courthouse were dying from the exhaust of traffic, mainly MITs buses continuously driving by them ... circa ... 2010 2012.

#### 5. My own health records

- a. My condition was an emaciated body eating itself to death; because, I could not keep-down solid foods nor liquids for two weeks. After, starting catherization and dialysis, three more days passed before I could keep liquids down. I survived on plasma during that time.
- b. The environment at the Muncie Inn and the apartment afterwards was complicated with gases observed 24/7, continuously. Until someone suggested going to the hospital (or, Urgent Care/Who told me to go to the Hospital. Hospitalized for kidney failure the end of July 2012.
- c. Since the hospital stay at I. U. Health Center, I stayed in a nursing center for rehabilitation. Where I was helped to obtain my birth certificate, State approved photo ID and Social security card. And then, Medicare Part A and B and finally Medicaid were procured.

d. After waiting an interminable amount of time, from an original apartment to shelters to motel to ravaged apartment to rehabilitation to hotel and finally to an apartment, hoping for a better environment. Unfortunately, the spewings into my new apartment almost right-away!!! Even though I have been working with the staff at Cambridge Square, we have been unable to ascertain the source of the smells/odors. Now, an outsource representing the E.P.A. will be needed to ascertain how much or if any at all gases or residues are found. And, even though the residues are found, if they cannot prove the presence of biological agents, I would be charged with the \$900.00 to \$1,000.00 fee. This is money that I do not even have!!!

#### 6. My latest health records;

a. I am getting together new health records with my latest bout with so intense of spewings, 24/7, at my new apartment that congestion leading to hacking coughing and inflamed bronchial tubes, so said the doctor who examined me, similar to an asthma condition!!!

#### Conclusions

I have no preconceived ideas of how much good my presentation can do, butt, I do know some things need be done to curb the rampant robbing and infrastructure damages being done to the country these past twenty-five years or so. If the tide is not stemmed, then, the United States of America will no longer exist.

The Pattern described here is symptomatic with every other pattern being used to destroy America. All that is needed is being honest enough to observe the data and try to see the truth of the matter. The colonists had a flag that said "Don't Tread on Me"; we can already see so much destruction in infrastuctures of every kind that we could say that there is no longer anything to tread-on.

I do not know how many others have started reporting-on what has interminably been going-on, butt, there could be a lot more citizens willing to say what they have observed over the decades of time, two and one-half decades, approximately!!!

As long-as such High Treasonous acts are perpetuated upon the citizens of the United States of America, how can people (and, people always solved the problems) think let-a-lone solve the problems facing our species and every species for centuries of time, already???

How long does it take to wake-up the people let-a-lone those in positions capable of stopping what is still going-on???

The Computer still awaits the reply ...

# Transmission Log

123 Tuesday, 2013-10-08 18:49

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Date	Time	Туре	Job #	Length	Speed	Station Name/Number	Pgs	Status
2013-10-08	18:47	SCAN	00636	1:34	14400	CMS	7	OK V.17 AM31



# **U.S. Congressman Luke Messer**

### Indiana's Sixth Congressional District

508 Cannon House Office Building • Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202) 225-3021 • Fax: (202) 225-3382

Website: www.messer.house.gov

Muncie Office 107 West Charles Street Muncie, IN 47305 Phone: (765) 747-5566 Fax: (765) 747-5586

50 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Richmond, IN 47374 Phone: (765) 962-2883 Fax: (765) 962-3225

Richmond Office

Shelbyville Office 2 Public Square Shelbyville, IN 46176 Phone: (317) 421-0704 Fax: (317) 421-0739

#### **FAX COVER SHEET**

To: (b) (6)	k
(440) 000 000	<b>71(747)-747-556</b> 6
	Date: 10/8/13
Re:(b) (6)	Pages: 7
	****

Comments:

-Congressional Inquiry-

Please review and respond to forthcoming inquiry.

\*Please confirm receipt of inquiry to: karrie.pardieck@mail.house.gov

Confidentiality Notice: The information in this document is intended solely for the designated recipient and may be confidential. If this transmission is received by mistake, please contact the sender to arrange for the return of the document. Thank you.



#### United States Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Region 5 77 West Jackson Boulevard Chicago, IL 60604-3590

NOV 15 2013

The Honorable Luke Messer Member, U.S. House of Representatives 107 West Charles Street Muncie, Indiana 47304

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your October 8, 2013 letter regarding your constituent (b) (6) concerns about environmental health impacts in Muncie, Indiana.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency works with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to protect human health and the environment. IDEM regularly performs inspections in Muncie to identify and address violations of environmental statutes. EPA spoke to the IDEM air compliance manager for the Muncie area and learned that there are no significant pending environmental issues or open enforcement cases in the vicinity of (b) (6) residence. Furthermore, this area meets all National Ambient Air Quality Standards, the air standards designed to protect sensitive populations from the harmful effects of six major air pollutants. For more information, please contact Phil Perry, Chief of the IDEM Office of Air Quality/Compliance and Enforcement Branch, at (317) 232-8457.

Regarding (b) (6) concerns with indoor air quality, EPA does not have authority to address indoor air pollutants. However, he may want to contact the City of Muncie Building Commissioner's Office at (765) 747-4862 to request that his apartment be inspected for building code violations.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckmann or Denise Fortin, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman

Regional Administrator

# Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy Administrator Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write regarding the Supreme Court's orders granting applications from states and stakeholders to stay the "Clean Power Plan" (CPP) and your statements in a March 2016 congressional hearing on the implications of the Court's action. Specifically, we seek clarification to ensure that your statements do not result in states and other stakeholders expending scarce resources to unnecessarily comply with the CPP's deadlines. It is our belief that such actions would undermine the very purpose of the Court's orders.

As you know, five applications for relief were submitted to the Court, each requesting a stay of the CPP. One of those applications also explicitly requested "an immediate stay of EPA's rule, extending all compliance dates by the number of days between publication of the rule and a final decision by the courts, including this Court, relating to the rule's validity." Another asked that the CPP be "be stayed, and all deadlines in it suspended, pending the completion of all judicial review." Every brief opposing the applications acknowledged the requests to extend the compliance deadlines.

Moreover, long-held precedence recognizes that any request for stay carries with it the inherent tolling of all compliance deadlines if that stay were lifted. Thus, the Department of Justice stated in its brief, "In requesting a 'stay,' however, applicants . . . explicitly or implicitly ask this Court to toll all of the relevant deadlines set forth in the Rule, even those that would come due many years after the resolution of their challenge, for the period between the Rule's publication and the final disposition of their lawsuits" (emphasis added). In fact, the Department of Justice told the Court that granting the applications "would necessarily and irrevocably extend every deadline set forth in the Rule" (emphasis added).

On February 9, 2016 the Court issued five separate and virtually identical orders on the applications. Each order stated, "The application for a stay . . . is granted." We agree with the Department of Justice that in granting these applications without limitation, the Supreme Court both stayed the CPP and necessarily and irrevocably extended all related CPP compliance deadlines.

In a March 22, 2016 hearing before two House Energy and Commerce subcommittees, you were asked whether—if the CPP was upheld—the various compliance deadlines would also be extended by the amount of time equal to the completion of judicial review. In your response, you

stated, "Well that's not what the Supreme Court said, but we assume that the courts will make that judgement over time or will leave that to EPA to make their own judgement." When pressed further, you responded by saying, ". . . the Supreme Court didn't speak to that issue. The only thing they spoke to was the stay of the rule. They didn't speak to any tolling or what it meant in terms of compliance time."

As the Department of Justice's own conclusions make clear, the Court did speak to tolling when it granted the applications for relief that explicitly or implicitly requested the tolling of compliance deadlines. Those Court orders necessarily and irrevocably extended the CPP's deadlines, allowing states to hit "pause" on compliance measures during legal challenge of the CPP, so that states are not required to spend billions of dollars on immense, and in many cases irreversible, actions to implement a regulation that may never come. This harm is what drove petitioners to request relief from the Supreme Court in the first place.

We are concerned that your statements before Congress undermine the certainty that the American people deserve and the Supreme Court was seeking to provide when it granted applications to stay the CPP and toll its deadlines. If ambiguity here drives states and stakeholders to meet all CPP compliance deadlines anyway, then the Court's action will be meaningless.

In order to provide clarity to the states, utilities, and other critical stakeholders, we respectfully ask you to provide answers to the following questions:

- 1. Two of the applications for relief from the CPP submitted to the Supreme Court explicitly asked the Court to extend all CPP deadlines for a period equal to that of the stay. The Department of Justice concluded that all of the applications made the same request, if not explicitly, then implicitly. The Court granted these requests for relief without any limitation. How do you reconcile these facts with your claim that "the Court didn't speak to any tolling"?
- 2. Did any EPA official review the Department of Justice's brief in response to the applications before that brief was submitted to the Supreme Court?
- 3. At any point before the Supreme Court issued its orders on February 9, 2016, did any EPA official object to language in the Department of Justice's brief concluding that granting the stay "would necessarily and irrevocably extend every deadline set forth in the Rule"? Does EPA now disagree with that conclusion? If so, please provide EPA's official legal interpretation.
- 4. Is EPA relying on specific precedent to conclude the stay order does not toll all deadlines outlined in the final CPP rule? If so, include any such examples or case law in EPA's interpretive memo as requested in question 3 above.
- 5. If EPA does not disagree with the Department of Justice's conclusion that the relief requested and granted by the Court "necessarily and irrevocably" extends all CPP deadlines, then what steps is EPA taking to prepare to extend all CPP deadlines in the event the stay is lifted?

- 6. Why is it necessary for the Court's orders staying the CPP to "speak to any tolling" if, by the Department of Justice's own admission, those orders "implicitly," "necessarily," and "irrevocably" "extend every deadline set forth in the Rule"?
- 7. The Supreme Court stayed the CPP to prevent states and stakeholders from being irreparably harmed by the rule's deadlines during the judicial challenge. How would the Court's order protect states and stakeholders from irreparable harm if, upon reinstatement of the rule, those states and stakeholders did not receive an equivalent length of time to comply with the CPP?
- 8. EPA officials have stated the agency is developing regulations expressly related to and arising out of the final CPP, specifically the Clean Energy Incentive Plan (CEIP). The program is intrinsically linked to the implementation of the CPP and a public request for comment through issuing a proposed rule would effectively obligate stakeholders to the current CPP litigation to dedicate resources to study and comment on the proposed regulation. Given that the CEIP's fate is directly tied to the CPP litigation, what authority is the EPA relying on to conclude these actions do not contravene the Supreme Court's stay of CPP?

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Sincerely,

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